

**4-515-A Site Summary - San Antonio Creek****4-515-A****County :** Santa Barbara **ACP Division/Segment :** SB - B - S03**NOAA Chart :** 18700**Map Book :** 365 C x 1**Decimal Degrees** 34.8 -120.62**Site Description:**

Special Permission required for access through Vandenberg Air Force Base (see Land Access for more info). This site includes 100 yards SE and NW from the centerline of the creek upstream to the limits of tidal influence, which include San Antonio creek mouth and lagoon. During the winter, the lagoon is usually open, but for most of the year, the lagoon is blocked by a sand barrier. Tidal influences are variable depending on the season. Size and shape of the lagoon varies from year to year. North and south of the creek mouth are extensive fine to medium-grained sand beaches. Abundant seabirds (including brown pelicans) and shorebirds are present. Grunion spawning occurs in the spring and summer during high tides. Pismo clams occur at this site. Wetland habitat and wildlife are at risk when the creek mouth is open to the ocean during rain events and high surf. Fragile sand dunes surround the creek.

**Resources at Risk:***ESI and Habitat:* 3A Fine to medium-grained sand beaches

9B Vegetated low banks

10A Salt - and brackish-water marshes

**List of Resources at Risk:**

	Resource Name	Status	Presence
Amphibians	California red-legged frog	FT	Year-round
Birds	California least tern	FE, SE	Apr-Sep
Birds	Western snowy plover	FT	Year-round
Fish	tidewater goby	FE	Year-round
Fish	steelhead - Southern California	FE	Year-round
Fish	unarmored threespined stickleback	FE, SE	Year-round
Mammals	southern sea otter	FT, SP	Year-round
Reptiles	southwestern pond turtle		Year-round

FT-Federally Threatened, FE-Federally Endangered, FP-Federally Protected, SE-State Endangered, ST-State Threatened, SP -State Protected  
 SR-State Rare, SSC-Species of Special Concern, BGEPA-Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act, SSSP-State Special Status Species

**List of Key Contacts:**

Type	Name/Title	Organization	Phone
C	Main Office/	Central Coast Archeological Information Center	(805) 893-2474
E	Law Enforcement Desk/24hr	Vandenberg AFB	(805) 606-3911
E	Vandenberg Conservation Office/	Vandenberg AFB	(805) 606-6804
T	Federally listed/T/E Species	USFWS	(805) 644-1766

C – Cultural, Historic, Archaeological; E – Entry/Owner/Access; O – Other; S – Safety; T – Trustee; X – Exclusion or Security

**Additional Site Summary Comments:**

Western snowy plovers nest from Mar-Sep and California least terns nest from Apr-Sep. California red-legged frogs spawn from Mar-Sep.

**Concerns and Advice to Responders:**

The lagoon is habitat for three threatened/endangered (T/E) fish. Two T/E birds nest in the dunes and upper beaches south of the river from Mar-Sep. Animals and their associated habitat can be injured by oil and response activities unless responders minimize disturbance in the lagoon. Avoid disturbing the dunes and upper beaches, only drive vehicles on the wet sand and avoid trampling oil into sediments. Follow protective conditions from IC and resource biologists.

**Hazard and Restrictions:**

Special Permission required for access through Vandenberg Air Force Base (see Land Access for more info). Unhealthy levels of coliform bacteria have been found intermittently in streams and on beaches in this area. Use appropriate PPE, safety procedures, and include reference to potential health problems in any site safety plan.

**Site Strategies:**

**Strategy: 4-515.1 Objective:** Boom- Deploy exclusion booms across the inlet entrance.

*Strategy:* Deploy exclusion booms across the inlet to minimize the likelihood of oiling the estuary. Place the booms in a configuration that forms an adjustable oil collection pocket that can accommodate changes in flow direction. Back exclusion booms with sorbent booms to minimize leakage. Line the shorelines and any side channels within the inlet to prevent collateral oiling. If there is recoverable oil on-water, deploy sorbents and contact the IC immediately regarding the use of skimmers. Monitor, adjust, and replace booms as needed to maintain effectiveness.

Table of Response Resources

Equipment	Sub-Type	Size	Unit	QTY	Unit	Last Page Update
Boom	Swamp Boom	1500 feet				
Boom	Sorbent Boom	1500 feet				
Vehicle	ATV	1				
Staff	Staff	5				
Anchor		8				

**Strategy: 4-515.2 Objective:** Filter Fence- Minimize oil contamination using a filter fence.

*Strategy:* Construct a filter fence across the front of the channel where the inlet is narrowest, water flows are low or dry, the ground can receive and hold metal stakes, and the spill is heavy oil. Monitor barrier and replace pom-poms as necessary to maintain effectiveness.

Table of Response Resources

Equipment	Sub-Type	Size	Unit	QTY	Unit	Last Page Update
Fence	Construction Fencing	4 x 100 feet		15	Rolls	
Misc.	Oil Snare (pom-pom)			750		
stakes	T-posts	6 feet		30		
Misc.	Stake Driver			1		
Vehicle	ATV			1		
Staff				5		

**Strategy: 4-515.3 Objective:** Sandbag Bags- Build a sandbag dam to prevent polluting unoiled areas.

*Strategy:* Build a sandbag exclusion/containment dam using onsite materials or imported materials as directed by CDFW biologist. Use clean low silt content sand. If using onsite materials obtain only from un-vegetated areas and have a cultural specialist onsite to monitor. Install underflow pipes and/or a spillway to regulate water flows as conditions dictate. Closely regulate water levels to reduce collateral oiling. If there is recoverable oil on-water, deploy sorbents and contact the IC immediately regarding the use of skimmers.

Table of Response Resources

Equipment	Sub-Type	Size	Unit	QTY	Unit	Last Page Update
Boom	Sorbent Boom			1500	feet	

Anchor		8
Staff		5
Vehicle	ATV	1
Sandbags		300

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**Logistics:**

*Directions:* Access to the creek mouth is difficult and requires a one-mile hike through the dunes and along the beach beginning at a small parking area at the end of a dirt road. Use of ATVs and 4WD vehicles may be possible, with access from Minuteman Beach Parking lot. Consult with VAFB resource biologist. It is about a four-mile drive from Minuteman Beach. The ATV tires need to be deflated to 6 psi.

*Land Access:* This site is located on Vandenberg Air Force Base. Access to the beaches and land sites must be authorized through the Air Force Base. Responders must call the Law Enforcement Desk @ 805-606-3911 and the Vandenberg AFB Conservation Office @ 805-606-6804 for access authorization to roadways, lands and shorelines. An escort may be required in some locations.

*On-Water Limitations:* Avila Harbor is the nearest full service civilian harbor. Facilities for small vessel loading can occur at the Boat House near Rocky Point just south of Point Arguello. These facilities can be utilized with permission from VAFB. Area is rocky.

*Facilities, Staging Areas, Command Posts, Available Equipment:* This is a remote site with no local facilities for staging. Nearest staging area for personnel, equipment, and supplies is located at the Minuteman Parking lot at the extreme north end of the beach.

*Communications Problems:* Cell phone communications are limited.

*Additional Operational Comments:* Monitor the mouth of San Antonio Creek. Wave wash over may carry oil over natural berm into the lagoon during extreme conditions. Wind drifted sand may bury beached oil. Due to the probable occurrence of western snowy plovers and/or California least terns at this site, please review the Sandy Beach Site Summary and Strategies (Site 4-000-A) for information on response operations when dealing with these sensitive species.

